



Where Friendships Last Forever

# Newsletter

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[www.cityofswartzcreek.org](http://www.cityofswartzcreek.org)

Fall

2021

## Residential Cross Connection Control Program

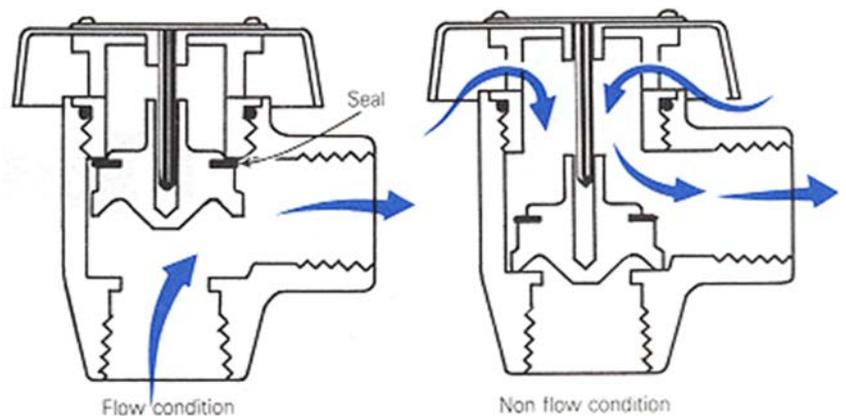
All residential homes must be inspected for cross-connections! This is a recent Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy requirement. Whether we like it or not, additional regulations are upon us. However, we are finding that inspections are quick, painless, and generally result in absolutely no homeowner obligations. We ask for your cooperation. Look for the scheduling letter from the inspector!

The city is contracting with Hydrocorp, Inc. to perform inspections on residential dwellings. They are generally looking to make sure that boilers, irrigation systems, and hose bibs have appropriate backflow prevention devices. Such devices ensure water is not siphoned into the public mains during a loss of pressure.

Owners can expect notification from the contractor to access each property sometime in the next three years (then once every ten years thereafter) to perform an inspection. If such connections exist, the contractor will supply complementary devices (if available) or otherwise send notice to correct specific connections. Again, this is extraordinarily rare!

Please work with us as we complete this task. Our goal is to ensure that our water system is safe from backflows of all kinds and that we are compliant with state regulations.

Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker



Find the community calendar and service information online at: [www.cityofswartzcreek.org](http://www.cityofswartzcreek.org)

## **Call 911 For After-Hours Emergencies:**

*Do so for water and sewer problems such as water main breaks or sewer backups.  
Messages at the office are not checked on the weekends or after hours.*

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

#### **The City of Swartz Creek Did Not Meet Treatment Requirements**

The water provided by the City of Swartz Creek water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this situation does not require that you take action, as city customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

Swartz Creek City purchases water from the Karegnondi Water Authority and the Genesee County Drain Commission (GCDC). GCDC treats city water to maintain corrosion control and prevent lead and copper in the pipes from dissolving into the water. To ensure water meets optimal corrosion control, the city routinely samples the water in the distribution system for water quality parameters such as pH and orthophosphate. The city is required to maintain these parameters within state-designated ranges. City water did not maintain these parameters within the set ranges for more than nine days during the July through December 2020, January through June 2021, and July through December 2021 monitoring periods.

#### **What should I do?**

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.

#### **What does this mean?**

This situation does not require that you take action. If it had, you would have been notified immediately. This is a treatment violation related to reduced orthophosphate (a corrosion reducer in water), but it does not mean there is lead or copper in your drinking water. The most recent monitoring indicates that lead and copper levels were below the action levels for all residential drinking water taps sampled.

However, it is important that everyone takes measures to control lead and copper levels in the water because ingesting lead or copper can cause serious health consequences.

**Lead:** Infants and children who drink water containing lead could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

**Copper:** Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor

#### **What happened? What is being done?**

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy set ranges for water quality parameters on May 14, 2020. After these ranges were designated, the city collected samples on November 5, 2020, and July 15, 2021, that were below the required minimum value for orthophosphate. Even though March 11, 2021 samples were above the minimum value for orthophosphate, the city still has more than nine days below the minimum state-designated value. The city is following up with all water quality parameter results timely to prevent this from happening again. For more information, please contact Mr. Robert Bincsik, rbincsik@cityofswartzcreek.org, 810-635-4464, or 8083 Civic Drive, Swartz Creek, Michigan 48473.

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Swartz Creek.

## Winter Reminders

- ⇒ There is **no parking on any city street from 2am-6am**. Outside of those times, please be mindful to only park on city streets where it is not prohibited. Keeping vehicles off the street permits winter maintenance. Violations will be issued to vehicles parking illegally.
- ⇒ **Property owners are responsible for clearing their sidewalks after snow and ice events!** Folks leaving town for the winter should make arrangements to have this done. Failure to do so can result in the clearing of the walkway by a contractor at the owners expense, and/or fines!
- ⇒ **Visit our website at [www.cityofswartzcreek.org](http://www.cityofswartzcreek.org) for updates or like us on Facebook!**



## Fire Department Message

Chief Dave Plumb

I am pleased to announce that the Swartz Creek Area Fire Department will begin EMS responses in the communities of Clayton Charter Twp and the City of Swartz Creek, beginning September 2, 2021 @ 7am. This has been a long process, but with the support of our community leaders, the dedication of our firefighting staff and the EMS equipment contributions made in the memory of the late City Councilman Jentery Farmer as well as donations made by Swartz EMS and MEDSTAR EMS, we have been able to launch this response with minimal to no cost to the residents we serve.

For nearly a year, Genesee County has been plagued by understaffed and/or limited available EMS transporting units. Most of these issues have been related to COVID precautions in cleaning units after a call, causing lengthy turnaround times when clearing the hospitals. EMS companies are also facing staffing shortages due to employees leaving the industry for fear of exposure and/or COVID quarantined employee down time. Residents in Genesee County have experienced excessive response times as EMS transporting units respond from the other side of the county to their 911 request or as units are being pulled from other counties in to meet the demand of EMS transport to the hospital.

The Swartz Creek Area Fire Department will be reviewing and assessing the effects of our responses to our residents, with a formal recommendation report given to our municipal leaders in January of 2022. We anticipate that our approach to EMS response in the communities we serve, will provide aid and care to our residents in those instances that a priority emergency response is made, and the ambulance is more than 8 miles away. The Swartz Creek Area Fire Department will comply with Genesee County Medical Control Authority requirements and will respond only to those specific incidents outlined in the 8 miles or more Fire Department EMS response protocols. The department currently has 8 licensed EMS personnel that have agreed to respond to incidents during the month of September. Each has taken an assigned rotation that they will individually be responding to calls for. We have an additional seven personal who recently completed 56 hours of Emergency Medical Services training and will be taking their national EMS certification test this month and once licensed, will begin taking on response rotations. This process will help keep costs down while still providing a service to our residents.

We are excited and proud of this accomplishment and will provide monthly updates to our boards starting in October. These reports will keep them aware of our responses times and how our interactions effected the care of our residents, while still maintaining compliance with HIPPA requirements.

# Police Department Statement

Chief Matthew Bade

TRAFFIC SIGNAL SAFETY: With the recent surge of storms and power outages, we have noticed an increased number of "near misses" in the community when it comes to traffic accidents at intersections without power to the traffic light. Here is what you are supposed to do when you approach a traffic light that's out. Like in a four-way stop, come to a complete stop and yield the right-of-way to drivers on your right. If the right is clear, continue carefully through the intersection. If we all follow the rules, we all stay safe and everyone goes home. (Street authorities will not put out stop signs during these outages. When a signal loses power, the intersection becomes uncontrolled and reverts back to basic right of way requirements under Michigan's vehicle code MCL 257.649 (1) and (2))

Are you interested in becoming active in your community? Are you interested in making Swartz Creek an even better place to live? If so, I sincerely invite you to consider joining our ranks here at the Metro Police Authority in our Metro Volunteer Program (MVP). It is a great way to make new friends and contribute your time in a very meaningful way. If you would like to inquire about this program, please contact Sgt. Mike Murphy @ 810-820-2190 ext. 21007. Please consider joining our team!



**City of Swartz Creek**  
8083 Civic Dr.  
Swartz Creek, MI 48473

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE